

MAY 27 1964

NEW YORK TIMES

SPY SAYS HE SOLD U.S. ATOMIC DATA

Ex-Swedish Aide Tells of Passing Secrets to Soviet

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, May 26—Stig Wennerström, the confessed Swedish spy and double agent, has told interrogators that he sold United States nuclear weapons secrets to the Soviet Union, according to a report issued today.

No details on the weapons involved were given in the 600 pages of the pretrial interrogation that were published by the Government.

The report quoted Wennerström, a former Swedish Air Force colonel and air attaché, as having said that, when he was air attaché in Washington, two American intelligence officers had asked him for information about the Soviet Union, where he had been stationed previously.

Wennerström was said to have told the police that the two officers believed he was working for the United States; when, in fact, he was selling a "lot of information" about American defense to the Soviet Union.

According to the report, he said he had sold secrets about the United States Strategic Air Command and its nuclear capa-

bility to Russian intelligence in 1952. He also was reported to have supplied information on the American air defense system and new airplane construction.

He contended that he obtained the information from many American sources, including Pentagon officials.

"The opportunities to get the publications that interested me were fantastic," the 57-year-old agent told his interrogators. "I had no need to take expense into consideration, so I was able to travel around inside American and Canada to air force bases, headquarters, factories and so on."

"The task for me was easier than my Russian principal could imagine," he said. "Thanks to my part as a double agent, it was sometimes ridiculously easy."

He said he was often given information by Americans, possibly because some of them were trying to sell new weapons to the Swedish Air Force and Army.

Began Spying in 1940

The police report quotes Wennerström as having said that he began spying for Germany in 1940. At that time he was air force attaché in Moscow. He has said to have provided the Germans with secret maps of the Finnish-Soviet border.

The report said that he began spying for the Soviet Union in 1948, soon after his second appointment to Moscow as an air attaché. He was reported to have said that, in a discussion with other Swedish officers, someone said it would be interesting to know how the Russians recruited their agents.

"Gradually I decided to try to be recruited myself," Wennerström said. He approached the Russian attaché in Stockholm, identified as Rebatchenkov. The Soviet Union was afraid that the United States was building a secret airfield system in Sweden, and Mr. Rebatchenkov asked Wennerström for information about an airfield outside Stockholm, the report said.

Wennerström said he jokingly replied: "Yes, if it is so important I will tell you what I know for 5,000 crowns [about \$1,000]." Wennerström told the police that when he next saw the Russian, at a party, he was handed a parcel containing that sum. He later provided the Russians with a map of the airfield, Wennerström said.

The former colonel is awaiting sentence on charges of espionage. Sentence will be pronounced June 12. Wennerström is expected to get life imprisonment, which would probably mean a parole after 10 years.

STATINTL



Birnbach

TELLS OF ESPIONAGE:
Stig Wennerström, former Swedish air attaché in Moscow, who detailed his role as a double agent in Washington and Soviet Union.